

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chief Justice John V. Hendry Announces Retirement from the Judiciary Effective October 2, 2006

LINCOLN---Chief Justice John V. Hendry, who has served as Chief Justice of the State of Nebraska for 8 years, announced his retirement from the judiciary, effective October 2, 2006, to Gov. Dave Heineman today.

At the time he leaves the bench, Justice Hendry will be 58 and will have completed his 11th year in the judiciary, the last eight on the Supreme Court. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he served as County Judge of Lancaster County Court.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve the State of Nebraska for the past eleven years," said Hendry. "I decided I wanted to spend more time with my family, do some traveling and relax a little. I have no immediate plans other than to take some time off after October 2. The Court has been moving forward on several major initiatives which I am confident will continue in the very capable hands of my colleagues on the bench."

By state law, Nebraska's Chief Justice is a statewide position and is filled through the merit selection system. A nominating commission, chaired by Justice John Wright, will hold its first public hearing at a time set by the Commission Chairperson.

During Chief Justice Hendry's tenure on the Supreme Court, significant changes were made to modernize the technology used within the state court system in response to increasing caseloads and intensified demands for court services.

The Court initiated several projects under the administration of Chief Justice Hendry, including appointing major study committees to address issues of actual or perceived bias in the court system; pro se (self-represented) assistance; interpreters for trial courts; children in the court system; drug courts; and, mandatory judicial branch education.

"Over the past 8 years, Chief Justice Hendry has been an innovative administrator of Nebraska's court system, a striking jurist who has strived to create a judicial system that reflects and upholds the values of the people of this state," said Gov. Heineman. "The

Chief has been a vocal leader in rallying the judiciary behind some important reforms, including the formation of drug courts and child advocacy centers in our state, and he has shined the spotlight on the need for greater consistency and cooperation in our state's child welfare system. His expertise and leadership will be missed, but he leaves having accomplished much for our state, and I wish him well in retirement.”

Chief Justice Hendry graduated from the University of Nebraska (B.S.) in 1970 and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law (J.D.) in 1974. He also served as a private practice attorney in Lincoln from 1974 - 1995.

"I will miss the Supreme Court very much," Chief Justice Hendry said, "but I know I am leaving it in good hands."

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More detailed background on Chief Justice Hendry’s life and career is available on the judicial branch website:

[Lincoln Journal Star - February 11, 2001 “The Common Man Sits Atop Nebraska’s Judiciary Throne”](#)

[On-line Biography of the Chief Justice](#)

[Kids Questions to the Chief](#)

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